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Student Financial Assistance: Rule Changes

**HECB Meeting
March 30, 2006**



Overview

- State Need Grant and State Work Study: substantive and technical changes to rules
- Public hearing in late May
- Board to consider adoption at July 27 meeting



State Need Grant Program: Rule Changes (WAC 250-20)

- Pilot program for students attending less than half-time
- Pilot program for applied bachelor's degrees
- Funding priority for foster youth



Pilot Program for Students Attending Less than Half-time

- House Bill 1345 (2005 session)
- Permits minimum enrollment of 4 or 5 credits
- Makes award amount equal to one quarter of full-time grant
- Exempts students from being admitted to a degree program for up to one year



Pilot Program for Applied Bachelor's Degrees

- House Bill 1794 (2005 session)
 - o Authorizes four community/technical colleges to offer applied bachelor's degrees and charge comprehensive sector tuition rate
 - o Begins in fall 2006
- Proposed rule would permit State Need Grant award to equal grant at comprehensive universities



Applied Bachelor's Degrees (continued)

- Proposal permits two award amounts for community/technical college students
- For now, proposal applies only to the CTC sector
 - o Proposed rule is based on a limited pilot program
 - o Pilot program may or may not become a permanent feature of CTC system
 - o Students in applied bachelor's program are charged substantially higher tuition per credit than students in associate degree programs



Funding Priority for Former Foster Youth

- House Bill 1079 (2005 session)
- Assures that unexpended or recaptured grant funds are used for youth who previously participated in foster care program
- Essentially guarantees eligibility and funding for former foster care youth



State Work Study Program (WAC 250-40)

- Gives priority in funding to youth who previously participated in the state's foster care program



Financial Aid Updates

March 2006



Financial Aid Updates

- Outreach and training to schools
- Scholarship Coalition and scholarship clearinghouse
- HECB participation in *College Goal Sunday*
- Foster care endowed scholarship program
- Federal student aid update



Outreach and Training to Schools

- Staff have conducted several visits to schools with more to follow (3-4 per month)
- DigiPen to be admitted to the State Need Grant program



Scholarship Coalition and Scholarship Clearinghouse

- Coalition has secured grant funding
- Consultant to be hired by mid-April to finish feasibility study
- Study to be completed by mid-summer



College Goal Sunday

- Board is participating in effort to bring *College Goal Sunday* to Washington
- Program enhances financial aid awareness through statewide publicity campaign and events held the weekend after the Super Bowl
- Approximately 35 states will participate in 2007
- First event is scheduled for February 2007



Foster Care Endowed Scholarship Program

- House Bill 1079 (2005 session)
- Creates state-funded endowment requiring private sector match
 - o Advisory committee is responsible for fundraising
 - o HECB staff support fundraising effort
 - o First meeting in mid-March, fundraising begins in May
- Annual scholarships from accumulated interest
- Program may require additional rules later



Federal Student Aid Update

- Academic Competitiveness grants and Smart grants
 - o Unclear and problematic implementation
- Proposed 2007 federal budget
 - o President Bush proposes elimination of LEAP, GEAR UP and Perkins loan programs
 - o Senate provides funds to retain programs
 - o House deliberates this week
- Reauthorization is delayed until June 2006 or later

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